



TRANSIT CENTER REPORT

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL



Congress of Women of Kyrgyzstan president Zamira Akbagysheva and Col. Blaine Holt cut the ribbon during the grand opening of the Krygyz Congress of Women Handcrafts store at the Transit Center at Manas.

Spring is always a time for hope and renewal. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, we take the time out of our busy schedules to honor all of the women that have made a difference in our lives. From our mothers to our business partners we take this opportunity to reflect on how much we owe to those who have shaped us.

As the days start getting longer, the temperature starts warming and the first buds of spring appear on the trees, the Transit Center personnel are also gearing up for a busy new season. The pace of construction continues to increase with four new contracts awarded to local Kyrgyz companies in February. The number of Transit Center opportunities continue to expand and soon there will be information posted on near the Transit Center entrance listing the ever expanding opportunities that will be opening up for local vendors.

The Transit Center and the surrounding local communities are continuing their growing partnerships as several small scale projects have been recently completed. The village school in Tort Kul recently completed refurbishing their roof with donated materials from the Transit

Center.

We recently celebrated the grand opening of the Congress of Women's Handcrafts store which will



Airman from the Transit Center at Manas singing at the 100th International Women's Day Celebration

provide transiting personnel an excellent opportunity to purchase high quality Kyrgyz handcrafted products every day. We are eagerly awaiting the spring season and an increase in our interaction. Our personnel are looking forward to many more enjoyable once in a lifetime experiences with our hospitable Kyrgyz hosts.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS...

After the recent changeover of transit center personnel, the new contingent is very excited and starting to get out and about taking in the sights and joys of Kyrgyzstan. Our volunteers are seeking out new ways expanding existing friendships and reaching in search of new oppor-

tunities. We're looking forward to the official groundbreaking of the Congress of Women this month along with the formal beginning of the spring season. The Transit Center weekly Saturday bazaar has become such a popular event that lines are starting to form outside earlier every week-

end.

With the warmer weather and upcoming planting season, we are looking forward to even greater partnership and interaction opportunities.

USAFCENT

Transit Center At Manas International Airport, Kyrgyz Republic

Important Dates:

- 6, 13, 20 27 March: Kyrgyz Bazaar at Transit Center
- 5, 16, 28, 30 March: Local Kyrgyz Bands at Pete's Place
- 8 March: International Women's Day
- 17 March: St. Patrick's Day
- 20 March: First Day of Spring
- 21 March: Nooruz
- 22 March: Nooruz (Observed)



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Donated goods from arriving from Transit Center Family members in England



Gen. Donald Hoffman, Commander of Air Force Materiel Command, hands a warm coat to an elementary school girl of the Grodz Village School during a recent visit.



Traditional dancing in concert with AFCENT's Celtic Air Band at Tamga Village

KYRGYZ / US PARTNERSHIP

PROGRAMS

- Donated six submersible water pumps to Jany-Pahkta Village administration in order to improve water distribution from Village wells.
- Jany-Jher Vocational school remodeling complete. Renovated bathrooms, replaced interior wiring, and installed over 55 heaters in the dorm facility.
- Completed small fencing project at the Ak-Jhol Village school providing safe place for children to exercise outside.
- Surveyed and finalized plans for several new projects in the villages surrounding the Transit Center.
- Congress of Women's Shelter bid is out and ground breaking ceremony is expected in March.

VOLUNTEERS

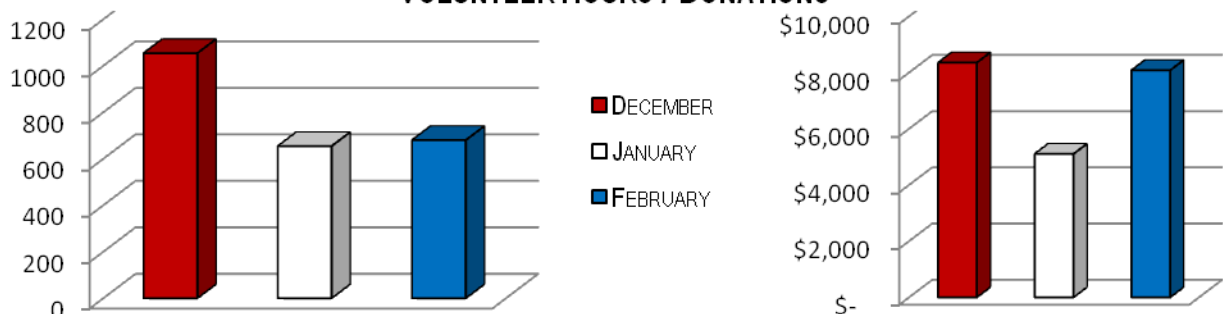
- Medical Group made two visits to the Manas village school to spend time interacting and participating in various sporting activities.
- Transit Center personnel raised over \$2,300 to fund heart surgeries for local children. 149 successful surgeries to date.
- Volunteer donations of over \$500 to purchase and deliver textbooks to the Min-roye village school in the Jany-Pahkta administration.
- Volunteers responded to a request from several families at the Grodz Village school. Over \$800 of donated clothing, winter boots, and foodstuffs delivered within 24 hours of the initial request.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

- Manas International Airport clinic physicians visited the Transit Center to discuss future joint training and other cooperative exercises.
- Hosted MOD Health Care section on a visit to the Transit Center. Toured Transit Center medical facilities, met with new personnel and reviewed equipment lists for Besh-Kungei Hospital.
- Medical personnel led a trip to the Children's Cancer Center in Bishkek.
- Finalized details with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Health and the Rostropovich-Vishnevskaya Foundation (RVF) for the 2 April conference launching the national program for the Treatment and Control of Soil-Transmitted Helminth Infections.

BY THE NUMBERS: VOLUNTEER IMPACT FOR FEBRUARY

VOLUNTEER HOURS / DONATIONS



ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

As our friendship expands and more and more Kyrgyz corporations and vendors establish business relations with the Transit Center, we are discovering even more room for economic cooperation. Plans are underway to develop the Friends of Bishkek cooperative. This proposed organization would consist of all those who have a vested interest in the expanded business success of the region. As we continue to build business partnerships and social opportunities, we will place ourselves in a much better position to ensure the growth of Bishkek during the next decade.

As the growth at the Transit Center continues to increase at an exponential rate, the needs of more commodities

also continues to grow. Starting this month, the contracting office will begin posting announcements, job opportunities, and upcoming requirements at the front gate of the Transit Center. We hope that many more local vendors will be able to take advantage of these expanding opportunities.

Another joint venture that is starting to take off is in the area of local remodeling and reconstruction projects. The Transit Center is partnering with surrounding villages and is using local vendors for such projects as new school fencing, roof repair, window installation, and boiler/heating repair. What an exciting season of change we are approaching.



Filling material being delivered for expansion of transient sleeping quarters at the Transit Center.



Larisa Desyatкова, Director American Information Resource Centre for the U.S. Embassy Kyrgyz Republic speaks at the Krygyz Russian Slavic University.

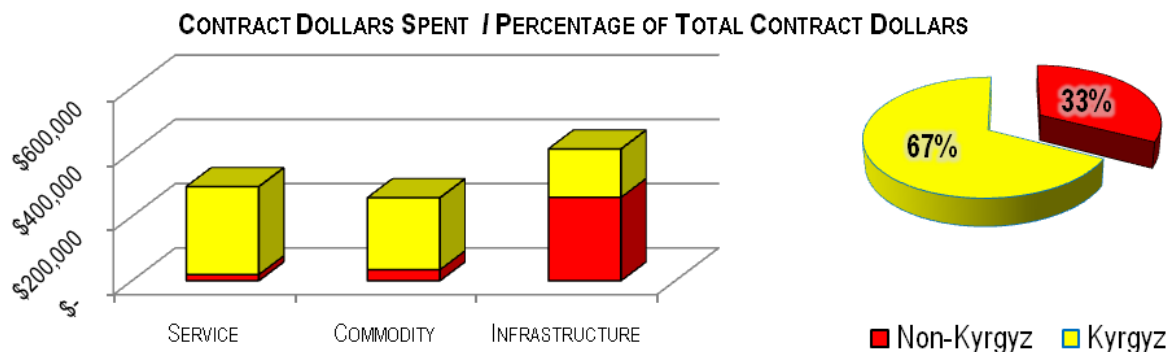


Students from the American University of Central Asia who are studying information technology and computer science check out the 376th Expeditionary Communication Squadron's communication tower during their tour of the Transit Center at Manas

CURRENT INITIATIVES

- The Saturday Bazaar continues to thrive with over \$58,900 in sales during the month of February.
- Final design process almost complete for remote parking area ramp. Expect construction to begin in early April.
- Local contractors continue to amaze Transit Center personnel with the speed and professionalism of construction of the new personnel center.
- Transit Center awarded 4 new construction contracts to local Kyrgyz firms in February. Fiscal year to date: 16 of 17 awards to local Kyrgyz construction companies, only 5 this time last year.
- Women owned business completed a 6.6MSom (\$153K) order for linens, with the final of 8 deliveries occurring 9 Feb.
- Stars and Stripes newspaper awarded a \$370K contract to a local company for printing and delivery of 1,000 newspapers daily.
- Local Kyrgyz generator dealer awarded \$94K contract for purchase and delivery of back-up power generators for 2 Transit Center facilities.

BY THE NUMBERS: CONTRACT DOLLARS SPENT FOR FEBRUARY



ECONOMIC IMPACT



<u>Direct Expenditures</u>	FY 2009	FY 2010 (Year to Date)
Payment to Kyrgyz Govt - Dip Note	\$26,620,000	\$30,000,000
Payment to Manas International Airport (MIA)**	\$22,999,039	\$11,370,112
Contributions to Airport Improvements	\$30,600,000	\$0
Contributions to Kyrgyz Aeronavigation (KAN)	\$480,500	\$0
Contracts Awarded	\$24,601,908	\$11,815,679
Govt leases (non-MIA)	\$81,562	* \$141,576
Programmatic Humanitarian Assistance	\$700,000	\$98,029
SubTotal Direct Expenditures	\$106,083,009	\$53,425,396
<u>Indirect and Charitable Expenditures</u>		
Estimated US Military local spending	\$1,037,530	\$450,274
Estimated charitable projects/donations	\$1,010,201	\$60,358
Subtotal Indirect and Charitable Expenditures	\$2,047,731	\$510,632
Total Economic Impact	\$108,130,740	\$53,936,028
* Based on US Fiscal Year: 1 October to 30 September; ** Airport Fees, land leases, contracts)		

26% increase in the amount of Military local spending between January and February with the addition of local markets in the Bishkek area.

* Due to accounting error in February, actual number is approximately \$4009 less than February report indicates.

THE TRANSIT CENTER EXPERIENCE

